

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (currently amended) A load bearing arrangement for use with a work machine of the type having a platform, comprising:
 - at least one load bearing member structured and arranged for coupling to the platform;
 - said load bearing member having an end comprising a material having a first yield strength;
 - an aperture formed in said end and having an aperture wall;
 - at least one support member contained within said ~~opening~~ aperture adjacent to at least a portion of said aperture wall, said support member having an opening sized to receive a bearing; and
 - said support member having a second yield strength greater than said first yield strength.
 2. (cancel) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein said support member comprises a substantially cylindrical structure having a through opening.
 3. (cancel) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 2 further comprising a bearing received in said opening.
 4. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein said support member is laser welded to said end.
 5. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein said load bearing member comprises:
 - at least one top plate;
 - at least one bottom plate; and

at least one pair of spaced apart side plates each attached to said top plate and said bottom plate.

6. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 5 wherein said top plate comprises at least one integral mounting structure.

A₁ 7. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 5 further comprising:

a substantially cylindrical attachment structure extending from at least one said side ~~wall~~ plate; and

wherein said side ~~wall~~ plate is attached to said attachment structure.

8. (currently amended)) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 7 wherein:

said load bearing member has a transverse width; and

said attachment structure spans said transverse width.

9. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 5 further comprising at least one reinforcing structure attached to at least one said side plate.

10. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 9 wherein said reinforcing structure comprises:

a base portion; and

a rib portion extending from said base portion.

11. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 9 wherein said reinforcement structure is laser welded to said side plate.

12. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein:

said load bearing member comprises a first side and a second side;

one of said first side or said second side comprises a plurality of side plates;

each said side plate having a centerline axis; and

A₁ at least two adjacent side plates on one of said first side or said second side are coupled together such that said centerline axis of each said side plate are colinear.

13. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 1 further comprising an attachment pivotally coupled to said member.

14. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 13 wherein said attachment comprises a bucket.

15. (original) A load bearing arrangement for use with a work machine of the type having a platform, comprising:

a plurality of pieces connectable to form a member structured and arranged for pivotable attachment to the platform;

a weldment connecting at least two of said pieces; and

at least one said weldment being simulated for effects of heat on at least one of said pieces subject to said weldment.

16. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 15 wherein said effects are at least one of stress and deformation.

17. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 15, further comprising:

an end attached to said member and comprising a material having a first yield strength;

an aperture formed in said end and having an aperture wall;

A, at least one support member contained within said ~~opening~~ aperture adjacent to at least a portion of said aperture wall; and

said support member having a second yield strength greater than said first yield strength.

18. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 17 wherein said support member comprises a substantially cylindrical structure having a through opening.

19. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 18 further comprising a bearing received in said opening.

20. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 18 wherein said support member is laser welded to said end.

21. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 15 wherein said load bearing member comprises:

at least one top plate;

at least one bottom plate; and

at least one pair of spaced apart side plates each attached to said top plate and said bottom plate.

22. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 21 wherein said top plate comprises at least one integral mounting structure.

23. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 21 further comprising:

a substantially cylindrical attachment structure extending from at least one said side wall plate; and

wherein said side wall plate is attached to said attachment structure.

24. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 23

wherein:

said load bearing member has a transverse width; and

said attachment structure spans said transverse width.

25. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 21 further comprising at least one reinforcing structure attached to at least one said side plate.

26. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 25 wherein said reinforcing structure comprises:

a base portion; and

a rib portion extending from said base portion.

27. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 25 wherein said reinforcement structure is laser welded to said side plate.

28. (currently amended) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 15 wherein:

said load bearing member comprises a first side and a second side;

one of said first side or said second side comprises a plurality of side plates;

each said side plate having a centerline axis; and

at least two adjacent side plates on one of said first side or said second side are coupled together such that said centerline axis of each said side plate are colinear.

29. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 15 further comprising an attachment pivotally coupled to said member.

30. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 29 wherein said attachment comprises a bucket.

A, 31. (original) A load bearing apparatus, comprising:
a work machine having a platform;
at first member, having a longitudinal axis, coupled to said platform;
a first movement means for moving said first member relative to said platform;
a second member, having a longitudinal axis, pivotally coupled to said first member;
a second movement means for moving said second member relative to said first member;
a plurality of pieces connectable to form at least one of said first and second members;
a weldment connecting at least two of said pieces; and
at least one said weldment being simulated for effects of heat on at least one of said pieces subject to said weldment.

32. (original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 31 wherein said first and said second movement means comprises hydraulic cylinders.

33. (original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 31 further comprising an attachment attached adjacent an end of said second member.

34. (original) The load bearing apparatus as set forth in claim 31 wherein said attachment comprises a bucket.

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35. (original) The load bearing arrangement as set forth in claim 31 wherein said effects are at least one of stress and deformation.

Claims 36-46 (withdrawn)
